

**2022**  
**ONLINE WINTER FLOCK SURVEY**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**

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*Wild turkey management and research is made possible by the federal Wildlife Restoration Program, which is funded by an excise tax on the sale of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment.*

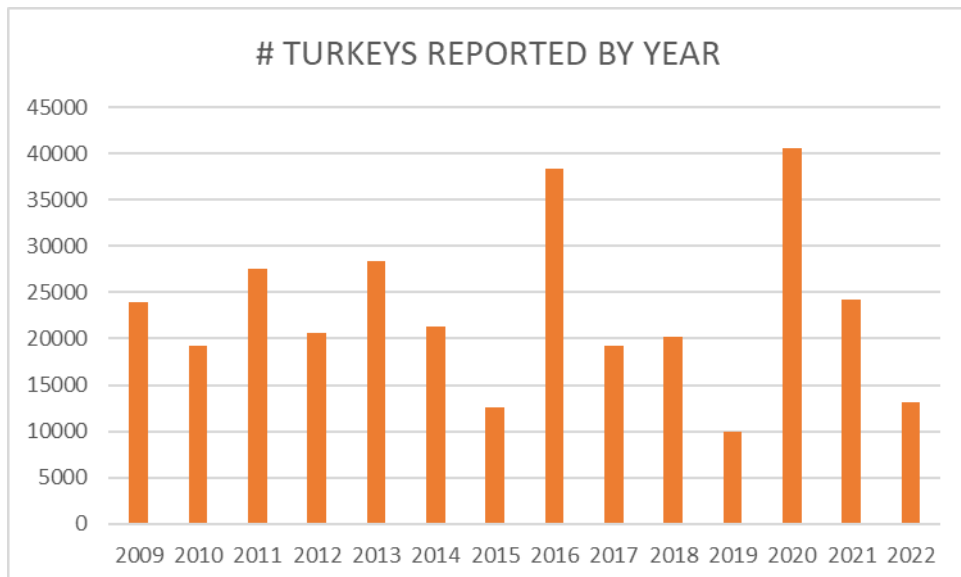
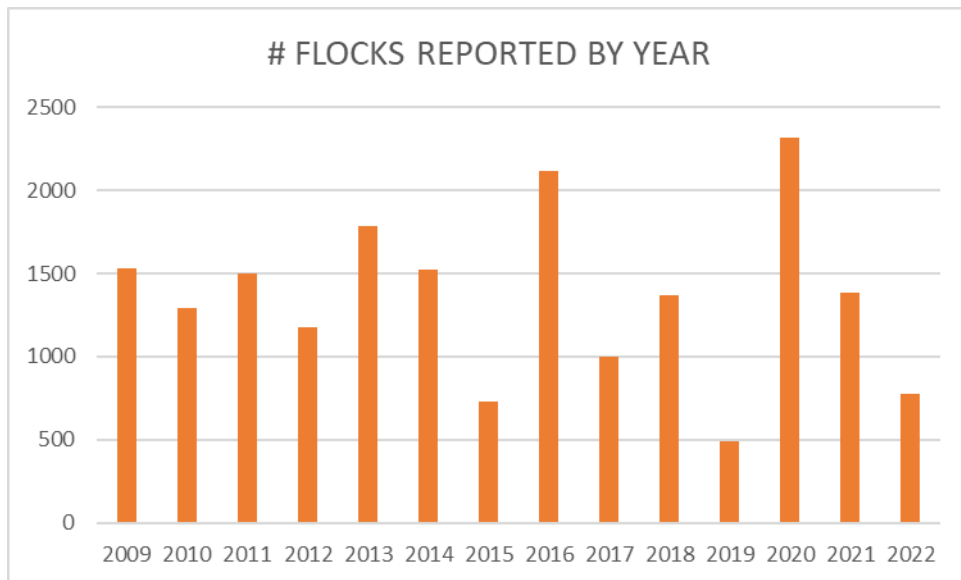


## **Introduction**

Many thanks to all the people throughout New Hampshire who submitted sightings of wild turkey flocks during winter 2022. The results of the survey summarized here will help the NH Fish and Game Department keep track of the status and winter survival of the wild turkey population around the state. This was the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the online winter flock survey which covers observations made between January 1 and March 31.

## **Numbers of turkeys reported**

A total of 772 flocks were reported during winter 2022 totaling 13,201 turkeys statewide. This was down compared to the previous two years when 1,383 flocks totaling 24,259 turkeys were reported in 2021 and 2,309 flocks totaling 40,476 turkeys were reported in 2020 but still more than winter 2019 when survey results yielded only 486 flock observations totaling 9,833 turkeys.



Throughout the state, 19 towns reported winter flocks of 50 or more turkeys per flock. The largest flocks were from: Newton (119), Brookline (100) and Chester (64).

**Table 1. Max Number of Turkeys per Flock by County and Town - Winter 2022**

<b>BELKNAP</b>	<b>CARROLL</b>	<b>CHESHIRE</b>	<b>COOS</b>	<b>GRAFTON</b>
Sanbornton 51	Wolfeboro 61	Chesterfield 45	Lancaster 52	Canaan 54
Gilmanton 45	Tamworth 37	Rindge 36	Stratford 50	Hebron 51
Center Harbor 42	Brookfield 35	Sullivan 35	Stark 45	Campton 43
New Hampton 40	Moultonboro 35	Nelson 32	Milan 37	Ashland 39
Belmont 32	Freedom 28	Walpole 27	Berlin 36	Littleton 36
Meredith 32	Bartlett 26	Stoddard 26	Northumberland 33	Haverhill 35
Gilford 21	Tuftonboro 24			Lyme 35
<b>HILLSBOROUGH</b>	<b>MERRIMACK</b>	<b>ROCKINGHAM</b>	<b>STRAFFORD</b>	<b>SULLIVAN</b>
Brookline 100	Allenstown 60	Newton 119	Barrington 54	Claremont 41
Amherst 63	Canterbury 60	Chester 64	Lee 42	Plainfield 41
Manchester 50	Wilmot 50	Derry 63	Strafford 42	Acworth 34
Mont Vernon 50	Hopkinton 35	Fremont 53	Rochester 39	Washington 34
Litchfield 45	Hooksett 33	Stratham 41	Rollinsford 38	Springfield 24
Lyndeborough 45	Franklin 30	Londonderry 40	Durham 35	Unity 23
Temple 45	New London 30		Somersworth 30	Newport 20
Bedford 43	Henniker 28			Charlestown 13
Peterborough 42				

The average number of turkeys in a flock statewide was 17.1 which is almost very close to the previous two years when the average was 17.54 in 2021 and 17.53 in 2020. Unit M (119) had the highest number of flocks reported again this year, followed by unit K (63), and unit L (60).

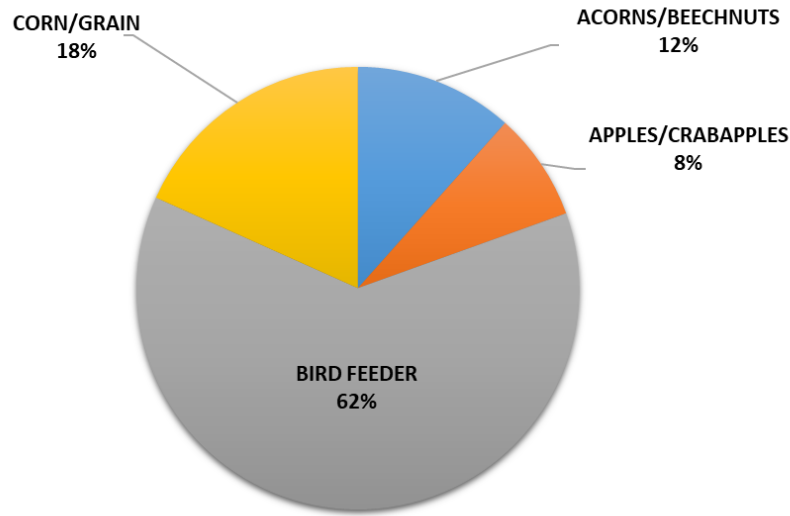
**Table 2. Average number of turkeys per flock by WMU - Winter 2022**

<b>WMU</b>	<b># FLOCKS</b>	<b># TURKEYS</b>	<b>MAX</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>
A	4	46	18	11.5
B	8	214	50	26.75
C1	7	110	36	15.71
C2	11	144	37	13.09
D1	20	297	52	14.85
D2	18	362	36	20.11
E	10	121	26	12.1
F	24	284	43	11.83
G	54	899	54	16.65
H1	17	320	41	18.82
H2	41	569	45	13.88
I1	39	535	30	13.72
I2	21	337	34	16.05
J1	28	447	40	15.96
J2	106	1704	61	16.08
K	109	2041	63	18.72
L	84	1459	60	17.37
M	171	3312	119	19.37
<b>Totals</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>13201</b>		<b>17.1</b>

**Categories of food use**

By far the greatest percentage of reported food use was 201 flocks (62%) feeding at backyard birdfeeders. The next highest category of food usage was 60 reports (18.29%) feeding on corn or grain. Another 38 flocks (11.59%) of turkeys feeding on acorns and beech nuts. Reported use of apples/crab apples was only 7.93% (26 flocks)

**Figure 1. Wild turkey food usage observations – Winter 2022**



**Disease monitoring**

During winter 2022 turkeys with visible lesions which may be indicative of avian pox or lymphoproliferative disease virus (LPDV) were reported from 13 towns from 6 different Wildlife Management Units. Overall, reports of symptomatic turkeys remains low.

**Table 3. Avian pox/LPDV infected turkeys observed by town - Winter 2022**

WMU	TOWN	# WITH VIRUS
M	AMHERST	1
K	ANTRIM	1
L	BARRINGTON	2
K	BEDFORD	4
K	BEDFORD	10
K	BEDFORD	2
J2	CONCORD	1
L	DEERFIELD	1
I1	HOPKINTON	1
M	LITCHFIELD	1
M	LONDONDERRY	1
M	NEWINGTON	5
M	NEWTON	1
I1	WEBSTER	1
D1	WHITEFIELD	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34</b>

**Attitudes towards wild turkeys**

Respondent's attitudes towards wild turkeys remains high with 93% of participants indicating the like or strongly like seeing wild turkeys on the landscape. A total of 5.57% of participants were neutral and a combined 1.43% dislike or strongly dislike wild turkeys.

